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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 9 NOVEMBER 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 7 November 1996 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning the continuing violations by Turkish armed forces of the territory and airspace of the Republic of Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex, the letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Identical letters dated 7 November 1996 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

With reference to my letter dated 16 October 1996 concerning the continuing violations by Turkish armed forces of the territory and airspace of the Republic of Iraq, I should like to inform you that the Turkish armed forces are continuing to carry out military operations inside the territory and airspace of Iraq under various pretexts, as is demonstrated by the following:

1. On 25 September 1996, Turkish artillery bombarded the Iraqi villages of Khilawah, Sarkani, Karmuk and Sabur, causing the death of two local people and several cows.

2. On 19 October 1996, Turkish artillery bombarded the two Iraqi villages of Kani Sarki and Kali Shawi, killing five villagers and wounding three.

3. On 20 October 1996, Turkish aircraft bombarded the Iraqi regions of Khawa Kurk and Kali Rash.

4. On 20 October 1996, Turkish artillery bombarded the regions of Kani Masi and Tarawansh.

5. On 21 October 1996, Turkish aircraft bombarded the Iraqi villages of Biri, Baytas, Arsat and Lifi, causing the deaths of two local people.

6. On 25 October 1996, Turkish artillery bombarded the regions of Qasruk, Kuzaf and Washti.

In transmitting to you the details of these Turkish violations, the Government of the Republic of Iraq requests the conduct of an immediate and exhaustive investigation into the above-mentioned events, since the repeated bombardments of Iraqi towns and villages by Turkish forces, and their unlawful incursions into Iraqi territory, are a blatant violation of Iraq's sovereignty and of the integrity of its territory and airspace that is inconsistent with good-neighbourly relations, the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and the 1929 Iraq-Turkey boundary agreement. Such practices are also liable to destabilize the whole region, primarily afflicted by the irregular situation created by the Americans and their allies in northern Iraq; the Government of Iraq has on many previous occasions warned its neighbour Turkey of the consequences of perpetuating that situation. The continuation of the so-called "Operation Poised Hammer" on Turkish territory on various pretexts is merely intended to conceal aggressive operations against the Republic of Iraq and intervention in its internal affairs.

While reserving its legitimate right under international law to seek compensation for the damage resulting from these Turkish violations and incursions into Iraqi territory and airspace, as well as for the humanitarian suffering to which the violations expose Iraqi citizens, the Government of the

Republic of Iraq renews through you its appeal to the Government of Turkey to reconsider its policies regarding the situation in northern Iraq and to cooperate with neighbouring countries, guided by the considerations of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect for sovereignty by which Iraq so scrupulously abides. Those considerations could ensure that the issues prolonging this dangerous situation are settled to the satisfaction of both neighbouring States, in fulfilment of the desire of the two peoples to bring security and stability to the region, and enabling them to pursue development goals.

As I stressed in my previous letter, the Government of Turkey bears complete international responsibility for these aggressive acts carried out inside Iraqi territory, and for all the attendant consequences, notwithstanding any reasons it may adduce.

The Republic of Iraq urges the Security Council to shoulder the responsibility with respect to international peace and security entrusted to it by the Charter of the United Nations, and prevent any repetition of the threats and hostilities to which my country is continually exposed.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq